AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs in the section of the specification labeled "**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**" as provided below (no new matter has been introduced):

[0024] Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of a spindle motor ~~constructed~~ illustrating a shaft having a conical extension in proximity to its end face in accordance with the present invention.

[0025] Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view of a spindle motor illustrating ~~the grooved structure of~~pressure generating grooves formed on the outer surface of a shaft in accordance with the present invention.

[0026] Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of a spindle motor illustrating the pressure profile generated during operation of the spindle motor illustrated in Figure 3.~~according to the invention schematically showing the pressure profile in the bearing.~~

Please amend the paragraphs in the section of the specification labeled "**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**" as provided below (no new matter has been introduced):

[0036] In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, the lower portion of shaft 14 gradually expands as it approaches its end face 14'. For example, Fig. 2 features a conical or cone-like extension 42 in proximity ~~to its~~to end face 14' of shaft 14, which faces the counter-plate 30. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, ~~, the~~ extension 42 comprises a double cone. However, the extension could also be formed to be completely conical, pear-shaped, half-spherical or spherical, or any other similar shape or combination thereof may be suitably employed. ~~similar shape or combination thereof.~~ For ease, and not by way of limitation, the gradually expanding lower portion of shaft 14 is described using conical extension 42. In designing the extension 42 of the shaft 14, it is important that its shape is selected such that it can absorb both radial and axial bearing forces. Providing a conical extension has the additional advantage of a good shock resistance of the bearing due to the increased fitting length between the cone and the shaft.